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Letter to the

Quident Volunteers

for

Foreign Missions.

From the Princeton Volunteers.

✓ Student Movement for Foreign Missions

PRINCETON, N. J., 1888.

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THE VOICE OF SCRIPTURE ON MISSIONARY WORK.

- I. THE GROUND OF THE WORK.
John iii. 16.
Luke ii. 10.
Mark xvi. 15.
Luke xxiv. 47.
Psalms ii. 8.
Matt. xxviii. 18.
Matt. xiii. 38.
- II. THE NEED OF THE WORK.
Psalms xiv.
Eph. ii. 12
Gal. iv. 8, 19.
I Thess. iv. 5.
II Thess. i. 8.
Rom. i. 20.
Rom. x. 13-15.
Acts xvi. 9.
I Peter iv. 17.
- III. THE PURPOSE OF THE WORK.
Luke xix. 10.
Acts xxvi. 18.
I Kings vii. 9.
Matt. xxv. 25.
Numbers xxxii. 6.
Isaiah lxi. 1-3.
- IV. THE SIN OF STANDING ALOOF FROM THE WORK.
II Kings vii. 9.
Matt. xxv. 25.
Judges v. 23.
- V. THE MOTIVE OF THE WORK.
Luke xvi. 5.
II Cor. v. 14.
II Cor. viii. 9.
Psalms cxvi. 12.
- VI. WAYS OF HELPING THE WORK.
Isaiah vi. 8.
I Cor. xvi. 2.
II Cor. i. 11.
Matt. ix. 38.
- VII. THE SPIRIT IN WHICH HELP SHOULD BE GIVEN.
Acts ix. 6.
II Cor. ix. 9.
I Chron. xxi. 9.
Col. iii. 23.
- VIII. THE REWARD OF A SHARE IN THE WORK.
Prov. xi. 25.
Matt. xxv. 23.
Mark xiv. 8.
- IX. THE END OF THE WORK.
Matt. xxiv. 14.
Habak. ii. 14.
Job xxix. 13.
Psalms xlii. 27.
Rev. xi. 15.

TO THE STUDENT VOLUNTEERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS: FROM THE PRINCETON VOLUNTEERS.

PRINCETON COLLEGE, MARCH, 1888.

FELLOW STUDENTS:

Twelve months ago we formed our Mission Band with about twenty volunteers. Of the one hundred students who offered themselves for foreign missionary service at Mount Hermon, several were students with us here, and the two who made the tour through the colleges and seminaries of the United States and Canada were graduates of Princeton. The history of this missionary interest at Princeton shows that it is not the work of man but of God; "for if this work were of men, it would come to naught." But "the hand of the Lord hath wrought this." "Strengthen, O God, that which thou hast wrought for us."

Just one year ago the interest was aroused by a free discussion of the condition and fate of the heathen and the responsibility of the followers of Christ in relation to them. We read, many of us for the first time, "O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, 'Thou wicked man, thou shalt surely die, if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.'" And God in Christ loved not only Israel but the whole world where he sends us to preach the gospel to all creatures who have no way of salvation except through that Name, on whom they must call to be saved. And "how then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" They have the image of God written in their hearts and are "without excuse," "without hope," "without Christ" and "without God in the world." "And when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire he will take vengeance on those that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." When we learned these things "we remembered God and were troubled," and the declaration we made of our willingness and desire to do God's will was His call to us to enter His work.

Four members of our Band were graduated last year and Robinson is now teaching in the College at Beirut, Syria, and Van Schoick is preparing for a medical missionary life. Silver who was one of the one hundred at Mount Hermon is now in Ceylon at Jaffna

College. To make up for these losses we have gained several new members—two in January, so that now we have about twenty-one members.

Every Sabbath the Band meets after Morning Chapel and takes up some missionary topic. We have discussed nearly every field in the world, some fields more than once, considering the history, people, country, obstacles, helps and prospects, and there is something new to be learned each time. The most interesting feature of the meetings this year has been the study of the lives of missionaries—living epistles—showing that God hath chosen the base things and the foolish and weak things and things which are despised and are not. We have learned how Livingstone though slow of speech, could so tell the story of the Cross, that the natives convinced of their sin rushed from the assembly; of his full equipment for missionary service, and of the consecration told in the entry in his diary on his last birth-day, “My Jesus, my King, my Life, my all, I dedicate my whole self to thee.” God has use for all kinds of men in missions. Alexander Duff was a man of powerful mind. Johnson was a day laborer in a sugar refinery, and his wife was a work woman in London. But how God blessed them! Moffat was a gardener, Clough was a surveyor, Gardiner was a sailor, before he went to Patagonia, and Martyn was a scholar. Hannington taught us the blessing of missionary service in his words, “I am not anxious for the morrow, for if this is the last page of earthly history, the next will be the first of the heavenly, and then sweet concourse forever in the presence of the Lamb.” The “comparative need and success of the Home and Foreign Fields” is another good

topic, and such Bible readings as the one appended, show that the work is "not by might nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord."

The only officers of the Band are the President, who assigns the work to each member and for each meeting, and the Treasurer, who has charge of the funds subscribed for mission purposes, apart from the regular collections of the Association, with whose monthly missionary meetings the existence of the Band does not interfere. We keep a book in which each member writes his name on joining and a blank space is left below the name in which is to be written a brief account of his life in the service after his days of preparation are over.

But the Mission Band cannot live unto itself. It must do some active work to get a share of the "blessings that come upon him that is ready to perish." Members of the Band speak in the preparatory schools, churches and associations round about, and have gone once a hundred miles away to press the claims of the work for the world.

We accept every opportunity to scatter missionary information and arouse missionary zeal, and for that purpose the Band will hold a meeting to which the whole College will be invited, though any one is welcome at any meeting, and some of the best topics discussed during the year will be publicly presented. For the College at large has a share in our work. When Mr. Forman was ordained here last fall it was proposed that the College should undertake his support. Only a few thought it could be done. "But there is no restraint to the Lord to work with many or with few," and in three days the undergraduates had contributed fifteen hundred dollars, and though not all will be paid,

more than enough is assured to pay the first year's expenses of the first College Missionary. The Seminaries of Princeton, Union and Alexandria have done the same, and Rutgers College, and in Canada, Knox and Queen's will send each its own representative. Why does not every large college in the country do the same, and the smaller ones can combine? Is there one standard of sacrifice for the colleges which have taken up the work and another for the rest? It can be done with God's help wherever it is tried in His Name; and the trial must be made. "He that is slack in his work is a brother to him that is a destroyer." It is worse than slackness that deprives the Lord's harvest field of hundreds of workers.

Fellow students, why is not every effort put forth to do this great primary work of the church? Over eighteen hundred years have passed since on the side of Olivet, Jesus Christ spoke to his disciples, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth," and though according to Lord Shaftesbury, even "during the latter part of these eighteen centuries, it has been in the power of those who hold the truth, having means enough, having knowledge enough, having opportunities enough to have evangelized the world fifty times over," not only have we failed to turn our own land to Christ, but we are unable to point to more than one out of every eight hundred heathen as saved by the power of the Name. But is the need at home an excuse for deserting the work abroad? "This ye ought to have done and not to have left the other undone." If each minister of the 75000 in this country should speak to three souls each day for one year, every man, woman and child,

Christian and un-Christian, of the whole population would have an opportunity to decide this question. But they refuse the opportunity, and "henceforth we turn to the Gentiles," and they are a great host. A solid phalanx, one hundred miles long and one mile and a half broad would barely contain them all. If the Chinese alone were to march along in single file, the line would never pass by: for as fast as one generation disappears the next is grown up to take its place, and while a pulse throbs two souls drop off this line into eternity "without hope," and "without excuse." Is it a time to make merry and be glad while these, our brothers, are lost and will never be found again? "Whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever."

"In the City of New York there is a larger Evangelical agency at work than all the messengers of all the foreign missionary societies of the world." All Christendom sends to the foreign field to-day less than 7,000 workmen; native churches contribute 33,000 more. If evenly and equally distributed this gives at the best, a parish of 18,750 souls who have never heard the word, to be reached in 30 years. In China there is a province of 15,000,000 with only three itinerating missionaries. In the whole country there are 919 missionaries, giving each worker about 430,000 souls. There are 260,000 pagans untouched in Hindustan. We have reached only the fringes of heathenism, "Whereas in the third century after Christ not one man out of 150 of the human race was a Christian, now in the nineteenth century one man is a Christian out of every five,"—a nominal Christian. "The world is growing better," and in proportion to men and money employed converts are multiplying among the heathen three and one-half times as fast as in the

United States, but to-day the pagan population of the world is 200 000,000 more than it was a century ago. The increase of the heathen is twenty times greater than that of converts.

Is it a time to keep when the need abroad is so much greater? And then the best way to be blessed is to give a blessing. "There is no way," said Exvarts, "in which we can so powerfully aid the cause of God in our own land as by doubling and quadrupling our sacrifices for the salvation of distant pagans." Saith the Lord, "Ye are cursed with a curse, for ye have robbed me." "But," we say, "Wherein have we robbed thee?" "Ye have robbed me, even this whole nation, in tithes and offerings. Bring ye all the tithes into the store house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a ble sing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." We have no deserved the blessing. Of a capital of \$8,728,400,000 the Church gives one-sixteenth part of one per cent to rescue the dying heathen. Only two per cent. of the Church's contributions is applied to foreign missions. All missions, home and foreign, get \$5,500,000, while we spend \$25,000,000 annually on kid gloves, and \$900,000,000 on liquor and \$600,000,000 on tobacco. This is not taking up our Cross daily and following Christ. He has not taught this conduct; for he said "whosoever that forsaketh not all that he hath cannot be my disciple." The Lord wants consecrated wealth. "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine." A member of our Band found a young law student in New York who was willing to acknowledge this, last fall, and they two will labor together, one going into the service,

and the other supplying the money, "that they may be fellow-workers with the truth." While money can do so much for the kingdom and while He calls, is it not a consummate blunder to live selfishly?

A soldier of the English army declared that they could place a proclamation given to them, in the hand of every soul in the world in eighteen months. The Church of Christ has failed to do it in eighteen hundred years. We have bound the world with a zone of drunkenness. We have shown to those who sit in darkness the horrible feet of those who brought only the curse and the blight of our civilization. We can show to them all the glorious light of the gospel of Christ. Once again the people of God stand at Kadesh-Barnea, and the spies bring back a good report of the land. O "go up at once and possess it, for ye are well able to overcome it." It is time to speak unto the people that they go forward. "Wherefore is the heart of the people discouraged from going over into the land which the Lord hath given them?"

At Hartford in 1836 it was "Resolved: In view of the signs of the times and of the promises of God, that the day has arrived in which the work of converting the world to God should be undertaken with a definite scheme of operations based upon the expectation of its speedy accomplishment." And yet Jesus Christ seems to be as far as ever from "having the heathen for His inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession." Has the church been true to her high calling when in the year ending May 1, 1886, the Presbyterian Board had to retrench to the amount of \$23,000 to escape debt? In the face of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ who gave Himself, is it asking too much of

those whom He has saved, to give their lives and their money, all of it, to His service? Our wealth, our social influence, and the luxury of the church show that we are not decreasing while Christ increases. He is ready to honor his promises. "He shall not fail nor be discouraged till he have set judgment in the earth; and the isles shall wait for His law." Madagascar, Sandwich Islands, Fiji, the Hebrides make answer. Christ is waiting so long, so patiently to have His people quench His thirst with souls; to see them bring to Him those precious jewels of souls of the *whole world*, out of which He will make His crown. He longs to bless us. We need to draw near to Him in prayer and talk to Him of missions, and beg for men and money for missions, and to offer Him all we are for missions, to be carried away by the enthusiasm of love.

"Unto us is this grace given that we should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of God." May we be made strong in Him. Let "there be showers of blessing" upon us, and may the power of the Holy Ghost come upon us—the power of the Holy Ghost to go with us even unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Yours in the name of Christ,

THE VOLUNTEERS OF PRINCETON COLLEGE.

"The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

"God is not a man that He should lie: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken and shall He not make it good?"

"And at evening time it shall be light."

